

**MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF SEAT PLEASANT  
PUBLIC SESSION  
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2010  
7:00P.M.**

**1. OPENING**

**1.1.1 Call to Order**

Councilman Raynor called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

**1.1.2 Roll Call**

Present: Councilmember Latasha Gatling, Mayor Eugene Grant (Excused), Councilmember Darrell Hardy, Councilmember Kelly Porter, Councilmember Gerald R. Raynor, Sr., Councilmember Elenora Simms (Absent), Councilmember Aretha Stephenson, Councilmember Reveral Yeargin

Staff: Robert Ashton, Acting City Administrator, Dashaun Lanham, City Clerk, Lt. Leroy Patterson, Police Department, Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works

**1.1.3 Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance:**

The invocation was given by Councilwoman Stephenson

**1.1.4. Approval of Agenda**

- It was motioned by Councilman Yeargin and seconded by Councilman Hardy to approve the agenda. The motion carried.

**2. PRESENTATIONS:**

**2.1. None**

**3. LEGISLATION:**

- Resolution R-11-03 Approval of Community Legacy Grant Application, introduced on Monday, September 13, 2010 by the City Council. It was motioned by Councilman Yeargin and second by Councilman Raynor to approve Resolution R-11-03. The motion carried.
- FOR: Gatling, Hardy, Porter, Raynor, Stephenson, Yeargin
- AGAINST: None
- ABSTAIN: None

## **4. REPORTS:**

### **4.1 Mayor's Report- Eugene W. Grant, Mayor**

- Mayor Grant was absent from the Public Session and no report was submitted.

### **4.2. Council President Report-LaTasha C. Gatling, Council President**

- Council President Gatling stated that her July 2010 Report is on the table, please read silently.

### **4.3. Seat Pleasant Volunteer Fire Department Report-Dave McGill, Chief**

- The Fire Department was not present and no report was submitted for the month of July or August.

### **4.4 City Administrator's Report-Robert Ashton, (Acting)**

- Mr. Ashton stated that we had an addition to the family. We have hired a Human Resource Officer. She will be working on evaluation and the employee handbook.
- She will be working on job classification, and attending training next month.
- We have submitted for approval of reimbursement from snow storm with FEMA.
- **4.5. Code Enforcement**-Tiara Andrews, Code Enforcement Officer-was absent from the Monday, September 13, 2010 Public Session and a written report submitted. (See Attached)

### **4.6 Finance Department – Robert Ashton, City Treasurer**

- Mr. Ashton reported that he will be submitting to the Council a Financial report on September 23, 2010

### **4.7 Police Department –Samuel Prue, Chief of Police**

- Lt. Patterson reported that we have three (3) corporals
- The department is advancing with a promotion of himself to Lieutenant and Officer Busby to Sergeant.
- We have a C-safe coordinator and fleet maintenance of all vehicles are working accordingly
- Councilman Yeargin asked if the department has any female officers. Lt. Patterson stated that there is one in the academy that they are interested in hiring.

- Councilman Yeargin asked if the K-9 unit has been hired.
- Lt Patterson stated that the information was on the Chief desk
- Councilman Raynor wanted to know how many officers do we have working on the weekends
- Lt Patterson stated that we have four working every shift.
- Councilman Raynor stated that there are people parking in the handicapped spaces during the games
- Lt. Patterson stated they will have an officer patrol the area during the weekends.

#### **4.8 Public Works-Johnny Thompson, Director of Public Works**

- Mr. Thompson stated that he is happy to report that the pavilion is fully complete.
- Mr. Thompson stated the street repairs have begun with VMP Construction. They had started on 69<sup>th</sup> Street and installed speed humps. They have run into several problems with water.
- They have taken care of the problem on G Street with water running down the street.
- They have placed a hook up in the ground and left it up to the residence to connect to a sump pump.
- They had taken care of the bumps in the street
- We are on course with addressing the problem on Carrington Avenue
- The department of public works is working on beautification by planting in various areas in the city
- He will be attending a training to address the snow removal for the city
- Councilman Yeargin asked if the continued work on 69<sup>th</sup> is due to a greater problem.
- Mr. Thompson stated that the repairs will be done to complete the street
- Councilman Yeargin stated that he has a few streets that need to be address as soon as possible
- Mr. Thompson stated that he would not address the concern in the manner
- Councilwoman Gatling stated that she wanted to clarify what Councilman Yeargin was asking regarding the streets. She stated that grant monies are approved for the streets that are reported during that time. Please ensure the streets are included in the next go round

## **5. CITIZEN COMMENTS**

### **5.1 Citizen Comment**

Mr. James Wright, 500 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD, Mr. Wright stated that he wanted to address two things. The Citizens Association meeting will be held next Tuesday, September 21, 2010. They do not know who the speakers will be until the outcome of the election on tomorrow. They will be electing officers in February 2011. He congratulated the Councilman Porter on the events in the park. He stated that he wanted to congratulate Councilwoman Gatling on her accomplishments as Council President during this last year. He acknowledged her participation in various meeting around the city and attending the General Assembly, and working on the website.

Wilhelmina Evans, 64<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD, Ms. Evans stated that they need help in Ward II. She stated she needs to be careful. She said the word for the day is slow to anger. Please read Proverbs 16:31-33.

Councilwoman Stephenson stated that we will be working on getting the proper assistance to speak with the new residents of Spanish dialect. She said that she wanted her to know that she hears her.

James Epperson, 514 68<sup>th</sup> Place, Seat Pleasant, MD, Mr. Epperson stated that he recently received a notice from the Code Enforcement Officer on the grass at his residents. He is concerned about the alley in the rear of his property. He stated that someone cut the tree down and it was left in the alley. They had come through last week to cut the grass in the alley. He doesn't feel that they should have to call three and four times for them to cut the grass on a regular basis. He cuts his grass on a regular basis. When he called to report that the bags of grass was left in the alley. He was told that they can only leave six (6) bags for pick up. He told the supervisor that he was lying, they could leave more. The other issue is the water issue on his street. The street continues to sink in the area. The property is located at 511 68<sup>th</sup> Street with the broken concrete that was replaced with blacktop. It should have been replaced with concrete. The pipes were being pulled from the street with the back hoe, and he had to go outside to request them to stop due to the damages that were being caused in his home. He had an appointment with the former administrator who was to come to his home to look at the damage. Councilwoman Gatling asked him when this occurred. He stated that it was two (2) years ago. He stated that it is two (2) properties on Martin Luther King Jr Highway that have been burned down. They are an eyesore. He asked that when you call 911 do the Prince George's police, and Seat Pleasant Police come out or just Prince George's County. He stated that he needed a copy of the police report, and the

young lady was thorough in finding police report. However, he feels the cost should be posted, as he was told the cost of the report is \$10.00.

Councilwoman Gatling asked Mr. Thompson was he aware of the issue. Mr. Thompson stated that the work was done by a contractor for WSSC. He stated that he would look into the issue.

Councilwoman Gatling explained to Mr. Epperson how the police officers are dispatched when you call 911. The City doesn't have a dispatch system, and they will dispatch a Seat Pleasant Police Officer if one is available. He was told by a County Police officer that he needed to contact SPPD.

Mr. Epperson, Jr., Mr. Epperson stated that he is addressing an issue regarding the police officer representing themselves in manner that isn't fitting. He has addressed the concern with the Lt. Patterson, and a field officer, and he wanted to address it with the City Council. He said the officer speaks disrespectfully to the residents. The issue needs to stop and be address immediately. He stated that if we are in the wrong he needs to address us and explain to us what we are doing wrong. He stated that he is not familiar with procedures, but when you address a complaint you should request identification, but they are not doing this. He was told to pick up the report on Tuesday from an incident that occurred on last Sunday. When he went to receive the report he was informed the report wasn't ready. He wasn't giving a date as to when the report will be ready. The procedure and guidelines need to be addressed. He further stated that the officer address his father inappropriately.

Councilwoman Gatling asked him to file a report and state the officer name so that it can be addressed.

Lt. Patterson stated that he provided Mr. Epperson with a complaint form, but the complaints are addressed when they are received. He explained that an officer can be back logged in the reporting due to calls. Councilwoman Gatling asked Lt. Patterson to follow up with Mr. Epperson and she would follow up with Lt. Patterson.

Councilman Hardy stated that you don't need a report in order to file a complaint. It is best to file the complaint immediately while the incident is fresh. You can get the report afterwards.

Jacqui Battle, 500 70<sup>th</sup> Street, Seat Pleasant, MD, Ms. Battle stated that she wanted to address a few things. She wanted to say kudos to Lt. Patterson for his promotion. She thanked Council President Gatling and Councilwoman Stephenson for attending her church Reach Out and Touch Day on yesterday, Sunday, September 12, 2010. She wanted to comment on a situation that occurred in front of her residence and how the County Police Officer addressed the matter. She stated that the officer waited a long time after the victim was sitting on the ground in hand cuffs and they decided to search the vehicle. The officer spoke to the victim abusively. The county police are known to be very nasty, and it appears they are going back to the days where they were known to be verbally abusive.

Councilwoman Gatling stated the City Council has no jurisdiction over the county police officers. It is important that we vote on tomorrow and depending on who gets into office it can change. We only have jurisdiction over Seat Pleasant Police Officers.

Ms. Battle stated that the big hole by the Shell gas station needs to be repaired. She noticed they keep a cone in the location. Mr. Thompson stated that the county is responsible for Seat Pleasant Drive. She stated she hasn't had any complaints this year, and this is September and this is her first. A senior resident called the public works department to address an issue. The person that answered the telephone addressed the issue and it never made it to Mr. Oliver. He told the senior she had to pay him up front and she did because she didn't know. He charged her \$400.00 and came back with a crew. She wasn't pleased with work that was done and the gentleman wouldn't answer her telephone call. Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ashton had the senior who is 90 years to sign a statement stating that she's satisfied. She spoke with Mr. Thompson and he stated that he thought it was taken care of by the gentleman. He did send someone down to address the problem. She said that Mr. Thompson spoke to her very disrespectfully and she doesn't appreciate the manner in which he has done so. Ms. Battle stated that it was a low down and dirty the way Mr. Thompson and Mr. Ashton addressed the situation. She stated that they don't call her Jacqui Battle for nothing and they don't know her.

Mr. Thompson stated that the way Ms. Battle is addressing the issue is not the way it has happened. Councilwoman Gatling stated that this isn't the forum to address the issue. It should be handled by Public Works Committee, Mr. Thompson, Mr. Ashton, Ms. Battle and Ms. Moore to address the issue. Councilwoman Gatling requested Ms. Lanham to contact Ms. Battle and Ms. Moore to schedule the meeting.

Pamela Boone stated that she meets with District 3 Officers monthly. She can take any complaints to them, if they are provided to her.

Ms. Battle thanked Council President Gatling for her tenure as Council President. She stated that she has done a fantastic job serving the community.

## **6. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- None

## **7. NEW BUSINESS**

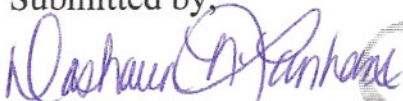
- **Council President Election**, The City Clerk passed the ballots to the council to cast their votes, and the city council ballots was counted. The votes declared that Councilwoman Gatling will be continuing as the Council President.

## **8. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**8.1.** .General Election, Tuesday, September 14, 2010, 7:00am-8:00pm, Respective Area Polls

**ADJOURN**-It was motioned by Councilwoman Stephenson and seconded by Councilman Raynor to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:38p.m.

Submitted by,



Dashaun N. Lanham  
City Clerk